



CCM 2014 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

Your source for local government management information www.ccm-ct.org

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

March 17, 2014

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 451, "An Act Concerning Government Administration, State Contracting, Regional School Boards and the State Elections Enforcement Commission"

The bill would, among other things, require certain municipalities to participate in the state set-aside program.

CCM has concerns with the proposal as it would be another unfunded mandate on towns and cities.

CCM empathizes with the policy goals of this proposal. However, it must be said that it will add administrative costs to local governance.

CCM is unsure of how SB 451 would interact with *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, wherein the courts ruled that federal set asides were discriminatory in a guard rail case and, therefore, local officials signing them were subject to treble damages. CCM urges the Committee to reduce municipal liability exposure by requiring the State to assume responsibility for any constitutional damage verdicts.

Thank you..

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate, at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.